

SUTTON-ON-TRENT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at the Methodist Community Centre, Sutton-on-Trent
on Tuesday, 12th March 2024 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Councillor M Allen
Councillor B Blanchard
Councillor S Hadley
Councillor P Hibberd (Chair)
Councillor P Marshall
Councillor M Moody
Councillor S Sloan
Councillor A Smith
Councillor S Tyers
Councillor K Walker

In Attendance County Councillor B Laughton and members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23/122 Apologies for Absence

Received and accepted from County Councillor Laughton. The Clerk advised that District Councillor Mrs Michael was expecting to attend. However, a report had been provided should her previous meeting preclude her attendance.

23/123 To receive and note any declarations of interest

Any declarations of interest would be declared as required during the meeting.

23/124 Public 10 Minute Forum

The Chair suspended the meeting at 7.31pm to allow for the public session.

A recently bereaved family were in attendance. Questions were asked regarding what was permitted to be planted, whether there were plans for the painting of the Cemetery railings and why their request for a plot in the old part of the Cemetery had been refused.

On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair extended condolences to the family on their loss.

Councillor Marshall advised that, with reference to the old part of the Cemetery, a decision had been made to close that for any burials, unless they were pre-purchased plots. This was to prevent any more issues with regard to mis-aligned plots. In relation to the railings, consideration had previously been given to retaining the Community Payback Team but that had been dismissed due to their requirements. It was acknowledged that this project needed to be revisited.

After discussion, it was AGREED that Councillor Marshall would meet with the family on site and agree a way forward.

A resident referred to the condition of the roads on Great North Road, with the only works being undertaken around the Mercia junction. As there was no footpath in the area, the condition was impacting on elderly residents who were fearful of falling. Councillor Moody confirmed that a site meeting was scheduled for Friday, 22nd with Officers from Via for this and other areas in the village.

A resident expressed concern at the financial information contained within the unredacted letter the Parish Council had submitted to Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the village hall. The Chair advised that the Clerk would respond direct to the resident regarding the queries raised, but reminded the resident that the most recent figures for the village hall were for a two phase construction.

In relation to the recent scanning of the Cemetery records, a resident asked if they could be uploaded on to the website for public access. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

A resident referred to the condition of road surface on Carlton Lane. Councillor Moody confirmed this would be raised with Via at the site meeting on 22nd March.

A resident noted that, at the February meeting, there was reference to providing signage to prevent dogs from accessing the Churchyard. This was not an action that the Parochial Church Council would want to take. The Chair explained the reason behind the discussion and asked if the resident could come back on whether the PCC would accept signage asking for dogs to be on leads.

Residents were thanked for their input and the meeting was reconvened at 8.02pm.

23/125 To receive and approve the Minutes from the meeting held on 13th February 2024

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th February 2024 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

23/126 District Councillor Report

The Clerk advised that Councillor Mrs Michael was hoping to attend subject to a meeting at Castle House finishing in time.

23/127 Newark & Sherwood District Council

(a) To discuss the present position with the Internal Drainage Board and work to alleviate flood risk to the village

Councillor Mrs Michael had provided a report following a recent meeting with the Internal Drainage Board. An outline design has been prepared for a structure to hold back flood waters coming over the road towards the Beck and into the northern part of the village. This is smaller and closer to the road than the previous one.

The Board were intending to review all the information they had, including that provided recently by the community at Sutton, in order to decide on the most appropriate investment of this order of funding. In 2024 the Board are focused on delivering Thurgarton, with the aim that the Sutton scheme will follow the next year. However, the Board would need to be sure that they were focusing on areas that would have the most beneficial impact, and to protect the largest number of properties possible. An offer had been made by the IDB to come to a future meeting of the Parish Council to discuss in greater detail.

The Chair considered that there were still a number of areas in addition to the works that had been discussed by the Internal Drainage Board. These included the Culvert under the A1, the dyke into Carlton Mill Lane and the dyke at the back of Strawberry Fields.

After discussion it was AGREED that the offer made by the Internal Drainage Board to attend the May meeting of the Parish Council be accepted.

The Clerk was asked to source drainage maps of the village showing responsibility from Via, the Internal Drainage Board and Severn Trent Water.

(b) To note the introduction of the Kerbside Glass Recycling Scheme

Members noted that the roll-out of the bins for the Kerbside Glass Recycling Scheme had begun, with collections starting from 8th April 2024.

(c) To consider a response to the first stage public consultation for the Public Spaces Protection Orders

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the whole of the Sternthorpe Close playing field was included within the Public Spaces Protection Order.

23/128 To consider any matters that need to be brought to the attention of County Councillor Laughton

No report was presented as Councillor Laughton had given his apologies.

23/129 Nottinghamshire County Council

(a) To receive an update on the situation with Rights of Way within the village

The Clerk referred to information received from the Rights of Way team regarding footpaths within the village.

The team were in the process of obtaining quotations for the work to FP5, but work will not be undertaken until the current extension works, that have led to the closure of the footpath, are complete.

Repairs to the footbridge on Bulham Lane, part of FP25, have been completed.

Regarding the hoggins paths on the Strawberry Field development, legal advice is being sought to establish if the County Council had any grounds for enforcement.

(b) To note the request to the CCTV Enforcement Team and Enforcement Officers to monitor inconsiderate parking outside the Primary School

Members noted the request for support from the CCTV Enforcement Team and Civil Enforcement Officers to combat inconsiderate parking outside the Primary School.

23/130 Planning

(a) Applications

23/02155/HOUSE 3 Floral Villas, Sutton-on-Trent - Removal of existing garage and new 2 storey side extension

After consideration, it was unanimously AGREED that this application be supported.

(b) Decision Notice

There were none to receive.

(c) Tree Works

There were none to receive.

23/131 Financial Issues

(a) To record receipts:

The following receipts were noted:

- E Gill & Sons (Memorials) Ltd - £135

(b) To approve invoices for payment:

The following invoices were approved for payment:

- Clerk's Wages – February 2024 - £304.25
- HMRC PAYE – February 2024 - £76
- Sage Accounts - £9.60
- NSDC – Waste Collection Charge, Cemetery - £113.85 (due 1st April 2024)
- Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib Pads - £106.74
- Notts Association of Local Councils – Annual Subscription - £336.52 (due 1st April 2024)
- Safety Signs for Less – Dog Restriction Signs - £22.38

(c) Financial Report as at 29th February 2024

Members received and noted the Council's financial position as at 29th February with a balance of £72,401.40 in the current account and £103,653.60 in the deposit account.

(d) To confirm details of the Internal Auditor for the 2023-24 financial year

The Clerk advised that Mr Harness had confirmed his availability for the Internal Audit of the accounts for the 2023-24 financial year. It was AGREED that Mr Harness be retained for the Audit.

23/132 Parish Council Matters

- (a) To receive draft head of terms from Newark & Sherwood District Council regarding the lease of the Sternthorpe Close Playing Field

The Clerk referred to correspondence received from Newark & Sherwood District Council outlining that the draft terms would not be considered by the Strategic Housing meeting until June. Members were disappointed with this timeline and asked the Clerk to seek an earlier consideration due to the need for the works to the surface.

- (b) Membership of the Joint Parish Action Group:

- Debate the aims & impartiality of the JPAG, the Parish Council's membership and delegated authority for Sutton-on-Trent representatives with a view to a proposal voting on the future membership of the JPAG.

Councillor Smith outlined his concerns around the Parish Council's membership of the JPAG, particularly around the inclusion of 'Action' and whether the group was aligned with the Stop GNR Solar group. Councillor Smith considered that there needed to be a degree of impartiality until views of the community were known and considered it imperative that the Parish Council formally vote whether to maintain membership of the group.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Smith that the Parish Council continue with membership of the group, seconded by Councillor Allen. This was unanimously AGREED.

Agreement that need to better understand views of parish.

- (c) Release of the GNR Solar Park Survey:

- Debate the impartiality of the question set, aims of the survey and how data will be used with a view to a proposal for the release, amendment or rejection of the survey.

Councillor Smith outlined his concerns around the survey.

The Chair advised that the work that had gone into the survey was extensive and had presented lots of challenges. Ultimately, it had to work for 19 individual parishes some of which were affected a lot more than Sutton-on-Trent. The data that will be provided will be reported back to the Parish Council, where Members could choose whether or not to accept that data set.

The Chair proposed that the survey be released in its current version to the community, this was seconded by Councillor Tyers. This proposal was carried with 9 votes for and 2 against.

- (d) To receive minutes of the Trentside Parishes Meeting held on 22nd January 2024

Members received and noted the minutes of the Trentside Parishes Meeting held on 22nd January 2024.

23/133 To receive updates and agree actions:

Playing Field

This item had been covered under Minute No 23/132

Cemetery

Councillor Marshall referred to the substantial pothole at the junction of the entrance into the new part of the Cemetery and Ingram Lane. The Clerk was asked to obtain a highways map from Via to determine responsibility. Councillor Moody would raise at the site meeting with Via on 22nd March.

Highways

This item had been covered under Minute No 23/124.

Community Speed Watch

There were no matters to report.

Public Footpaths

This item had been covered under Minute No 23/129.

Churchyard

There were no matters to report.

Village Hall

The Clerk advised that advice had been received from the Planning Department that the application to amend the Section 106 Agreement could not be made by the Parish Council as it was not part of the original agreement. This was despite the Parish Council being advised this was the route to take. The District Council would now progress the application. The planning fee would be refunded.

Sports Club

Councillor Smith advised that work would be starting in the next 6-8 weeks. The Sports Club were looking to bring a couple of proposals to the April meeting of the Parish Council for potential financial support.

Library Support Group

There were no matters to report.

War Memorial

There was no update at the present time.

Any Other Reports

The Chair thanked Members for their reports.

23/133 Nottinghamshire Association of Local Councils **March Newsletter**

A copy of the Newsletter had been circulated to Members for information.

23/126 District Councillor Report **(cont)**

As District Councillor Mrs Michael had not been able to attend, the Clerk read a pre-submitted report to Council:

- The glass collection scheme will start on 8th April, with bins now being delivered to residents in readiness for the start date.
- Council house rents have been increased by 7.7% and the Council Tax increased by 2.99%. Alternatives were put forward for both increases but were not accepted.

23/134 Correspondence

There was none to consider.

23/135 To receive items for notification

There were none to receive.

Close: There further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10pm

Next Meeting will be on Tuesday, 9th April 2024 at 7.30pm in the Methodist Community Centre.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS A SUMMARY OF THE DRAFT MINUTES WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN APPROVED.